

## CONTEXT

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- Violence among non-state armed groups and recurring natural disasters in Colombia continue to displace people; limit Colombians' ability to access crops, livelihoods, and essential goods and services; and increase food insecurity and worsen nutrition conditions among vulnerable households.
- The ongoing economic and political crisis in neighboring Venezuela has prompted more than 7.1 million Venezuelans to flee their country; approximately 2.5 million have sought refuge in Colombia, according to the Regional Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). Additionally, the crisis has driven more than 980,000 Colombians residing in Venezuela to return to Colombia. The population influx has strained local services and exacerbated food, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs among Venezuelan migrants and refugees, Colombian returnees, and host community members in both rural and urban areas of the country.
- The 2022 Colombia Humanitarian Needs Overview identified 7.7 million people requiring humanitarian assistance in the country due to the compounding effects of violence, related displacement, natural disasters, and migration in the country, representing an increase of more than 1 million people compared with 2021. Separately, the 2022 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan identified more than 4.8 million people in Colombia affected by the crisis in Venezuela—including Venezuelan migrants and refugees, Colombian returnees, and host community members—also in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, the UN reports.



## ASSISTANCE

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- On the margins of the UN General Assembly on September 22, 2022, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) Assistant to the Administrator Sarah Charles announced, more than \$194 million in additional USAID humanitarian funding for the Venezuela regional crisis, including nearly \$71 million for humanitarian assistance in Colombia.
- In total, USAID/ BHA has provided approximately \$576 million in assistance for the response to the Venezuela regional crisis in Colombia since Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. USAID/BHA is prioritizing emergency food assistance with a complementary focus on nutrition and livelihoods for Venezuelans, as well as for vulnerable host communities in Colombia. With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) is addressing acute food insecurity among migrant and refugee populations by providing emergency food assistance, including cash transfers for food,

food kits, food vouchers redeemable in local markets, and hot meals. USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partners also provide food kits and hot meals to Venezuelan migrants and refugees in transit and a range of humanitarian services—including cash assistance—to communities adversely affected by the Venezuela regional crisis. Cash assistance enables people to buy food and basic necessities directly from local markets.

- Since 2011, USAID/BHA partners have provided emergency food assistance to improve food security outcomes among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia. With USAID/BHA support, WFP and several NGO partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and locally procured food to IDPs, while implementing activities designed to bolster agricultural production and livelihoods. In addition, since FY 2021, USAID/BHA has supported NGO partners to provide critical protection interventions, including psychosocial support services to respond to gender-based violence; conduct specialized mental health services and sexual and reproductive health training complemented by the delivery of dignity and hygiene kits; provide shelter support; and deliver WASH assistance to reduce the risk of disease transmission, including by distributing hygiene kits and increasing access to safe drinking water. USAID/BHA partners are also providing humanitarian coordination support to improve analysis and decision-making capacities among relief actors responding to the needs of IDPs in Colombia.
- USAID/BHA continues to provide early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance in Colombia through activities designed to increase preparedness and improve livelihood opportunities in communities affected by conflict and natural disasters. Since FY 2019, USAID/BHA has supported Miyamoto International to bolster disaster preparedness, including by strengthening regional risk management and response capacity of departmental and municipal governments and private sector organizations. USAID/BHA partner GOAL is also working to strengthen urban ER4 capacities at the community and government levels and increase vulnerable communities' resilience to natural disasters, such as flooding and landslides. GOAL also implements livelihood development and restoration activities among host community members, migrants, and returnees.

USAID/BHA Funding in Colombia <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>2</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2021	\$191,362,567	\$0	\$191,362,567
FY 2022	\$144,924,809	\$750,000	\$145,674,809

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 26, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.